

wounding a sheriff's deputy and another person. The gunman then retreated into a church, where he apparently killed a church sexton and then took his own life.

The attack at the courthouse in Idaho is another reminder of the need to provide resources and protections crucial to our Federal and State courts. It was 2 years ago when the mother and husband of Judge Joan Lefkow of Chicago were murdered in their home. Judge Lefkow's courageous testimony in our committee hearing in May 2005 is something none of us will forget. Later that year a Georgia State court judge was killed at a courthouse in Atlanta and there was an attack on a State judge in Nevada.

Last month, by a vote of 97-0, the Senate passed S. 378, the bipartisan Court Security Improvement Act of 2007. I introduced this measure in January along with Senator SPECTER, the majority leader, Senator DURBIN, Senator CORNYN and others. House Judiciary chairman JOHN CONYERS introduced an identical measure in the House also with bipartisan support.

Among the bill's many protections are provisions expanding the access of State courts to grant programs for their security. The additional resources provided by this bill may not have prevented what occurred this weekend, but we must do what we can. I wish this legislation had been enacted last year. Despite our efforts, despite Senate passage of this measure twice last year, the House last Congress did not take up and pass these measures to improve court security. I expect that the new House soon will take up and pass S. 378 in this Congress. It should not be a struggle to enact these measures to improve court security.

Our Nation's Founders knew that without an independent judiciary to protect individual rights from the political branches of Government, those rights and privileges would not be preserved. The courts are the ultimate check and balance in our system. We need to do our part to ensure that the dedicated women and men of the Federal and State judiciary have the resources, security, and independence necessary to fulfill their crucial responsibilities. This weekend serves as another tragic reminder that we owe it to our judges and those protecting our courthouses to better protect them and their families from violence and to ensure that they have the peace of mind necessary to do their vital and difficult jobs.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I regret that I was unable to vote the afternoon of May 9 on the confirmation of the nomination of Debra Ann Livingston, of New York, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Second Circuit of New York. I wish to address this confirmation so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to

serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 158, I support the confirmation of Debra Ann Livingston. My vote would not have altered the outcome of this confirmation.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I regret that on May 2, 3, 7, and 9 I was unable to vote on certain provisions and passage of S. 1082, the prescription drug user fee amendments of 2007. I wish to address these votes, so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 148, on amendment No. 982, I would have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Regarding vote No. 149, on amendment No. 1022, I would have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Regarding vote No. 150, on amendment No. 990, I would not have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Regarding vote No. 151, on amendment No. 1010, I would have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Regarding vote No. 152, on the motion to invoke cloture on the committee substitute as modified and amended to S. 1082, I would have voted in favor of this motion. My vote would not have altered the result of this motion.

Regarding vote No. 154, on amendment No. 1039, I would not have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Regarding vote No. 155 on amendment No. 998, I would not have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Regarding vote No. 156 on amendment No. 1034, I would not have voted in favor of this amendment. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

Regarding vote No. 157, on passage of S. 1082, the prescription drug user fee amendments of 2007, I would have voted in favor of passage of this bill. My vote would not have altered the final result of this vote.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

• Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, the struggle to protect the civil rights of all Americans remains an unfinished project, but we have come a long way. I am proud of our country's progress, and I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Commemorative Coin Act, which marks the 50th anniversary of one of the most significant civil rights victories in American history.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 provided affirmation to Americans who knew this country could do better. This legislation outlawed discrimination based on sex, national origin, color, race, and religion. Access to offices, schools, housing, the voting booth, and public spaces would no longer depend on the color of one's skin or the country of one's birth. Heeding President Kennedy's call for "the kind of equality of treatment which we would want for ourselves," this historic legislation affirmed that all Americans were equal under before law. Years passed before the Civil Rights Act was enforced fully, but its passage represented a necessary step in the advancement of civil rights.

Passage of the Civil Rights Act was possible because of the persistent, non-violent efforts of countless Americans. Heroes like Dr. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and JOHN LEWIS inspired a generation, and the marches, sit-ins, freedom rides, and individual acts of civil disobedience reminded our country's leaders that the time to act had arrived. All Americans are indebted to these patriots for their courage and success, and we honor them with this legislation.

In addition to marking the Civil Rights Act in word, this bill also commemorates the act in deed. Proceeds from the sale of these coins will go to the United Negro College Fund, UNCF, an organization that embodies the spirit of the Civil Rights Act. The United Negro College Fund works to uproot the core causes of discrimination by providing minorities with opportunities that discrimination stole from them. Education provides students the opportunity to fulfill their potential and overcome stereotypes and, indeed, discrimination. Frederick Douglass described education as "the pathway from slavery to freedom." The days of slavery have passed, but education still enables young people to take advantage of their faculties and their freedom.

The United Negro College Fund achieves this aim by providing support to more minority students and higher institutions than any other organization in the country. Since its founding in 1944, UNCF has helped hundreds of thousands of students attend college. It includes in its alumni some of the foremost leaders in American history, including Dr. King and Congressman LEWIS. Today, the United Negro College Fund raises money for operating funds for member colleges and universities, provides access to new technology to historically Black colleges and universities, and provides assistance to young people who hope to further their careers and their lives by going to college.

This legislation commemorates historic sacrifices and victories and reminds us that we must continue to work for a more equal America.●